



GLOBAL RESOURCE ACTION CENTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

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Helaine Lerner
Board Chair

January 10, 2001

Alice Slater
President

Jane E. Henney, M.D.
Commissioner
U.S. Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville MD 20857-0001

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Dear Commissioner Henney:

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I am extremely concerned about increasing antibiotic resistance in humans due to overuse in agriculture. In the recent report by the Union of Concerned Scientists, it is stated that 24.6 million pounds of antibiotic drugs are fed to perfectly healthy cows, pigs, and chickens annually to promote faster growth. This is an irresponsible and drastic waste of these life-saving miracle drugs.

Although UCS has provided facts and data, government guaranteed information is critical for creating effective solutions for reducing unnecessary drug use in livestock. I am urging you to move forward, and establish the necessary system for collecting basic data on agricultural antibiotic use in the United States.

There must be a comprehensive government implemented strategy for collecting information, so the dangerous practice of non-therapeutic use of antibiotics can be halted. The information should be collected for both human and agricultural use and should include the class, indication, dosage, and treatment.

Please ensure that the health and well-being of the public is protected, by enacting the important first steps to reversing the trend of antibiotic use in animals.

Sincerely,

Alice Slater
Alice Slater
President

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GRACE

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